

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STAFFING

REF: STATE 93187

1. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE ASSIGNED TO ONE PERSON (SCIENCE OFFICER) WITHIN THE EMBASSY'S TWO-MAN POLITICAL SECTION. RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE ENERGY FIELD ARE ASSIGNED TO THE ECONOMIC SECTION. MANHOURS PER WEEK EXPENDED ARE: (A) EIGHT HOURS BY SCIENCE OFFICER; (B) TWO HOURS BY ECONOMIC SECTION.

2. BULK OF USG SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS IN NEW ZEALAND, AND THEREFORE OF SCIENCE OFFICER'S TIME, IS RELATED TO THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS INVOLVING BOTH THE GNZ AND USG; E.G. NSF ANTARCTIC PROGRAM AND ITS OPERATION DEEPFREEZE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT; TWO SATELLITE TRACKING PROGRAMS(MT. JOHN AND DMATC, NAPIER); NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (PENRYHN ISLAND) PROGRAM; NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAM AT CHRISTCHURCH; PROPOSED NAVAL OBSERVATORY PROGRAM AT BLACK BIRCH; AND PERIODIC, SHORT-TERM SUPPORT FOR SPECIALIZED MISSIONS SUCH AS NSF-SPONSORED FLURO-CARBON SAMPLING AND ATOMIC CLOCK FLIGHTS. IN ADDITION, THE US-GNZ AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION REQUIRES PERIODIC EMBASSY SUPPORT. NEW

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ZEALAND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS HEAVILY DIRECTED TOWARD AGRICULTURE, WHICH IS THE COUNTRY'S LIFE BLOOD. THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH PROVIDES LEADERSHIP IN THIS AREA AS WELL AS SEVERAL PRINCIPAL AREAS OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENERGY. IT ALSO HAS A SMALL, BUT GOOD, COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WITH NASA IN REMOTE SENSING INTERPRETATION AND PROVIDING GROUND TRUTH FOR LANDSAT AND,

PROSPECTIVELY, SEASAT. LITTLE CONSUMER-RELATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IS PURSUED IN NEW ZEALAND -- EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY FINANCED -- AND NEW ZEALAND IS ESSENTIALLY A TECHNOLOGY PURCHASER. PERHAPS THE ONLY AREAS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST TO THE US AT THE CURRENT TIME ARE GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH AND THE NON-CONVENTIONAL AREAS OF ENERGY RESEARCH, I.E. BIOMASS, WIND, ETC.

3. THE AMOUNT OF OFFICER TIME DEVOTED TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL MATTERS AT THE PRESENT, OR EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE, WOULD NOT JUSTIFY ADDITIONAL STAFFING. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE OF THE EMBASSY'S VERY SMALL STAFF, INCREASED REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES LEVIED ON THE POST IN SCIENTIFIC MATTERS COULD BE MANAGED ONLY AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES; E.G. COMMERCIAL, NARCOTICS, LABOR, LOS, ETC. HEALY

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